

RITTER RANCH, MAIN HOUSE  
OLD DOLORES HIGHWAY  
AT DOLORES RIVER  
DOLORES VICINITY  
MONTEZUMA COUNTY  
COLORADO

HABS No. CO - 38

HABS  
COLO,  
42-DOL.V,  
4-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
NATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL and ENGINEERING RECORD  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

RITTER RANCH

HABS  
COLO,  
42-DOL.V  
4-

Location: Old Dolores Highway, Dolores Vicinity, Montezuma County,  
Colorado

Present Owner: Connie Robinson, Route 1, Box 711, Colby, Kansas

Present Use: Residence

Significance: The Ritter Ranch is historically significant as the most technologically progressive ranch within the Lower Dolores Valley. The extensive outbuildings and their mechanical devices, including manure tracks for the barn and chicken house, prompted local residents to call this operation a "model farm." The Ritters owned the ranch from 1908 until 1947, raising registered Hereford cattle, Suffolk and Hampshire sheep, and up to 250 chickens.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: mid-1880's until late 1930's
2. Architect: unknown
3. Original and subsequent owners: References to the chain of title to the land upon which the structures stand are in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Montezuma County Courthouse, Cortez, Colorado.

1886 - Patent, April 10, 1886, recorded in Book 2, page 164. U. S. Government to William May.

1905 - Will, 1905, recorded in Book 36, page 171, William May to Taylor May.

1908 - Deed, January 19, 1908, recorded in Book 34, page 341, Taylor H. May to Frank Ritter.

1913 - Deed, June 24, 1913, Book 52, page 22, Frank Ritter to William Ritter.

1914 - Deed, July 6, 1914, Book 52, page 189, William Ritter to Edith Ritter.

1917 - Quit Claim Deed, August 2, 1917, Book 56, page 145, Edith Ritter to William Ritter.

1934 - Deed, September 19, 1934, Book 101, page 450, John William Ritter to Edith Ritter.

1942 - Deed, April 5, 1942, Book 116, page 289, Edith M. Robinson to John Ritter.

1946 - Deed, April 26, 1946, Book 112, page 332, John Ritter to Blue Robinson.

1976 - Release of Inheritance Tax, November 13, 1976, Book 470, pages 672-3, Blue Robinson to Connie Robinson.

4. Builders: Unknown for barn and main house; Ritter family for various outbuildings.
5. Original plans and construction: No plans exist; wood frame.
6. Alterations and additions:
  - a. House: Livingroom and bedroom added approximately 1908; second floor added approximately 1915-17.
  - b. Barn: Sheep sheds added 1924-25.
  - c. Potato Shed: Metal room overlaid on sod roof in 1940.

B. Historical Context:

Settlement of this land began in the mid-1870's with William May later receiving a patent for 160 acres in 1890. The delay between patent application and settlement was common during this early homesteading period. William May was a prominent local pioneer serving as the first Postmaster of Dolores. May and his brothers were early settlers to the Lower Dolores Valley, patenting adjacent tracts along the river where they grazed large herds of cattle. Also, May, in partnership with Charlie Johnson, established a flour mill in Dolores.

The ranch was purchased in 1908 by William and Frank Ritter from the William May estate. The Ritter brothers were prominent ranchers from the Lakeview District south of Dolores, before bringing their herds and expertise to the Lower Dolores Valley. In 1904, Frank Ritter became a local celebrity when his wheat entry won a silver medal at the St. Louis World's Fair. William Ritter moved with his family to the ranch while his brother remained at the Lakeview farm lands. The original May log cabin was incorporated into the structure that is now the main house.

The Ritter Ranch derives architectural significance from the varied and relatively intact outbuildings which comprise the complex. The barn, originally with an attached octagonal silo, was constructed in 1918 with wood from nearby Lost Canyon. The sheep sheds were added to the south elevation of the barn in 1924-25. Other buildings constructed in the

1920's included the ice house, storage shed, and garage. A delco battery electrical system was located in the garage, providing electricity for the entire compound. Built in 1930, the chicken house incorporated the manure tracts into its original design, and the barn manure tracts were probably added in the 1930's. The bunk house, implement shed, and potato shed were added in the 1930's. The second house was built by John Ritter, who inherited the ranch from his father, William. This house was constructed of wood salvaged when the octagonal silo was torn down.

The Ritter Ranch was fairly self-sufficient with its large collection of livestock and variety of cultivated crops. They raised registered Hereford cattle as well as registered Hampshire and Suffolk sheep. Goats were kept to herd the sheep into railroad cars. Poultry included turkeys, guinea fowl, and peacocks in addition to a chicken population of usually 250. The Ritters sold the peacock feathers to local Indians for 25¢. Wild hay, alfalfa, small grains, and potatoes were grown on the 70 acres of Valley land and pinto beans and wheat cultivated on the West Valley wall.

The Ritter Ranch exemplifies the constant adaptation to circumstances in the local ranching lifestyle. Equipped with prime land and registered herds of livestock, the Ritters were able to survive times of economic depression. They were often the first to incorporate "modern" agricultural practices and technologies leading the way for surrounding ranchers.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION - MAIN HOUSE

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Merit and Interest: The main house, with its numerous outbuildings intact, forms a typical complex of ranches in the area.
2. Condition of Fabric: Fair

### B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: The rectangular, three-bay, one-and one-half story structure is approximately twenty-four feet by thirty-two feet.
2. Foundation: Stone with concrete on the front and rear porches.
3. Wall construction, finish, color: Wooden bevel siding, painted white, with corner boards painted dark green.
4. Structural system, framing: Wooden frame construction. There is evidence in the attic on the south side of a log building behind the siding on the front section.

5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: There is a covered porch extending across the width of the north front facade. It has a concrete foundation and floor slab. The hipped roof is covered with wooden shingles and decorative metal ridge trim. The ceiling is beaded wooden boards. The roof is supported by four wooden columns across the front and an engaged column on each side at the wall of the house. The columns are square at the pedestal base, approximately three feet high, and they have an inset chamfered section in the center topped with a square section. There is a small wooden bracket on each side of each column, with a turned wooden spindle running diagonally across the bracket. A wooden balustrade extends between the columns consisting of a moulded wooden handrail supported by turned wooden balusters. The enclosed rear porch extends across the width of the house on the south. The hipped roof is covered with wooden shingles, and the ceiling is beaded wooden boards. There is a concrete floor and foundation. The walls are vertical, beaded, wooden boards approximately three feet high with metal insect screening above. The west end of the porch has been enclosed fully, forming a bathroom. There is a concrete stoop at the entrance to the rear porch.
6. Chimneys: There is a square brick chimney projecting through the roof of the second floor near the southeast corner. Another brick chimney projects through the roof of the one-story gable at the ridge near the south end. There is a metal flue through the one-story gable roof on the west slope.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The principal entrance is in the center of the north facade and opens into the livingroom. The paneled wooden door has a raised horizontal panel across the bottom with four smaller raised horizontal panels above it. Between the two rows of horizontal panels on the rail is a foliated wooden carving. A glass panel in the upper portion of the door has a drip sill below, and above the glass is an egg-and-dart moulding. On the rail above the glass panel is a foliated wooden carving and two raised panels above the rail. The hardware is a rectangular, decoratively embossed metal escutcheon and round knob. The doorway has wooden surrounds, wooden sill, and threshold. The wooden framed screen door has a row of spindles across at the strike rail.

The rear doorway, leading from the dining room to the enclosed porch, has wooden surrounds, sill, and threshold. The wooden door has five horizontal raised panels.

- b. Windows and shutters: Wooden windows on the first floor have one-over-one, double-hung sash. The extra-wide sash on the north facade has a small top sash and large lower sash. Windows have wooden surrounds and sills. There is a sliding aluminum window sash in the bathroom on the first floor. Second floor wooden windows have hinged sash -- one a four-light sash and the other a one-over-one sash.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: There is a high, single gable over the front story-and-a-half section, and a low gable over the rear wing, each covered with wooden shingles. The front and rear porches have hipped roofs covered with wooden shingles. The ridges on the high gable and the front porch have a decoratively embossed metal ridge tile.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The boxed cornice has a wooden cyma reversa edge moulding and wooden fascia, both painted dark green. The wooden rake boards on the gable ends are also painted dark green.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: The principal entrance is on the north facade and opens from the porch into the livingroom. The livingroom has a large window on the north wall to the east of the doorway. There is a large framed opening on the east wall near the south corner that has a three-window bay. There is a wooden window seat across the bay. A large double opening near the center of the south wall opens into the dining room. There is also a large flue that projects into the room on the south wall near the east side and ends approximately mid-way from the floor. A doorway near the northwest corner of the room on the west wall leads into a small bedroom. The bedroom has a large window in the center of the north wall. In the southeast corner on the south wall there is an opening into a closet, which is under the stairway. There is a window on the west wall of the closet -- the lower half in the closet and the upper half in the stairwell. The dining room has a large window on the east wall and a window on the south wall in the southeast corner. There is a doorway on the south wall that leads to the screen-enclosed rear porch. A doorway on the west wall near the center leads into the kitchen. The kitchen has two windows on the west wall, and there is a doorway on the north wall leading

into a small pantry. A doorway on the south wall leads into the bathroom, which is in the enclosed part of the rear porch. The bath has a window on the south wall. In the northwest corner on the north wall, there is an opening for the stairway, which extends up to a landing and turns east, continuing to the second floor. There is a flue projecting into the room above the floor along the east wall. The screen-enclosed porch extends across the south facade, and there is a small ell on the southeast corner of the porch which houses a well.

- b. Second floor: The stairway leads into a small landing on the second floor. There is a doorway on the north side of the landing leading into a bedroom. The bedroom, with its sloping ceiling on the north side, has a window on the west wall and a doorway leading into a closet on the east wall. On the south side of the stair landing there is a closet. In the closet on the south wall is a small access door leading into the attic over the dining room/kitchen wing. There is a doorway on the east wall of the landing directly in front of the stairway that leads into a bedroom. The bedroom, with its sloping ceiling on the south side, has a flue extending through the room and projecting from the south wall. There is a small cupboard on the east side of the flue along the south wall. On the east wall, there is a window, and on the north wall is a doorway to a closet.

2. Stairway:

The enclosed wooden, two-flight stairway with one landing has one closed string step projecting into the kitchen. There are seven steps extending up to the landing. Each of the first three steps has a drawer in the riser. The stair turns right and extends, enclosed, seven steps to the second floor. There is a window on the west wall of the stairwell, and the stringer extends across the window.

3. Flooring:

Wooden narrow-board flooring on the first floor and wide-board wooden flooring on the second floor. Some are covered with rugs. Linoleum covers the kitchen and bathroom floors.

4. Walls and ceiling finish:

Wooden walls and ceilings are covered with wallpaper. There is a wooden-paneled wainscot in the bay of the livingroom. The raised panels have an egg-and-dart

moulding surrounding them, and there is a top rail egg-and-dart moulding. There is a wooden, foliated picture moulding extending around the livingroom and dining room. Partition walls on the second floor and the partition between the livingroom and bedroom on the first floor are single boards in width and covered each side with wallpaper.

5. Doorways and doors:

Wooden doors are two kinds -- four-panel, two-tiers of moulded panels, and five horizontal, double-raised panels. Wooden door trim has a cornice across the head with egg-and-dart moulding and plinth blocks at the sill. The jamb trim has a projecting bead on the outer edge and a concave curve on the inner edge. Door trim in the first floor bedroom has simple, square-corner blocks at the head and simple plinths at the base.

6. Decorative features and trim:

The wooden trim around the windows in the livingroom and dining room extends to the floor, and there is a wooden raised panel underneath each window banded with egg-and-dart moulding. The jamb trim ends with a plinth at the base, and there is a cornice trim across the top with an egg-and-dart moulding. The large opening framing the bay window is trimmed with the same wooden trim as the doors and windows.

7. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heading: Wood-burning stoves
- b. Lighting: Simple, single-drop electric lighting fixtures in all rooms except the dining room which has a decorative brass chandelier.
- c. Plumbing: Modern plumbing fixtures.

D. Site:

- 1. General setting and orientation: The house sits south of the Old Dolores Highway with the main entrance facing north. There are two large blue spruce trees on the north side of the house, one on each side of the entrance approximately 30 feet from the house. There is a wire fence surrounding the yard with an iron gate on the north side on an axis with the principal entrance. There is a large blue spruce tree to the west side and several large cottonwood trees to the east and south. Near the road and to the northeast there is a grove of birch trees, some very large. A concrete sidewalk extends from the rear porch south to the garage.



2. Outbuildings:

- a. Barn: The large wooden-frame barn faces north and sits approximately 120 yards southeast of the main house. The heavy timber structure of the first floor rests on a concrete foundation and supports large wooden poles that, in turn, support the gambrel roof structure. The exterior walls are wooden boards and battens on the lower portion with no battens above a wooden string board, approximately mid-height. The roof has two wooden cupolas with louvered panels on four sides and is covered with wooden shingles. There are two large diagonal-board sliding doors on each end and a pair on each long side. There is a sliding wooden batten door on the north facade near the east end that is covered by a corrugated sheet metal-covered gable roof which is supported by two wooden poles. Six-light fixed sash wooden windows are placed along each facade. The long rectangular plan has a shed on the south side and an L-shaped wing extending southward at the western edge. The main barn is divided into two sections by a breezeway in the center. The section on the east side has a wooden-floored walkway with stalls on each side. There are five milking stalls on the north side that have iron pipe dividers in the west half and wooden board dividers on the east end. There is a wooden feed trough extending the length of the north side. In the stalls with iron pipe dividers there is a concrete floor. A metal track suspended from the ceiling extends along the north side of the stalls and to the exterior where it is supported by three posts and beam bents. A small metal manure car rides on the track. The south stall has one wooden divider and a wooden feed trough along the center walkway on the west one half. Across the central breezeway on the western end of the barn, there is a large wooden feed trough extending down the center. There is a smaller feed trough along the north wall. Above each side there is a hay loft with a bay door and two windows on each end. Along the ridge there is a metal track with a large metal hay fork. The south shed is open along the south wall, supported by wooden poles and hand-hewn log beams and is covered with corrugated sheet metal. The south ell shed is divided into seven stalls on each side by double-sided wooden feed troughs. It has a gabled roof covered with corrugated sheet metal. The east wall has vertical board siding approximately three and one-half feet high and is open above. With the exception of the milking stalls and walkway on the east end, the floor is earthen. The loft has a wooden plank floor. There are numerous wooden fences forming corrals along the south side of the barn, and there are two cattle-loading chutes. There is a well with an iron hand pump on the southeast side of the barn. Approximately five feet to the east edge of the barn there is

an octagonal, concrete foundation -- the remains of a silo. Approximately 30 yards southwest of the barn there is a metal grain bin. Numerous large trees are to the south and east of the barn. The Main Canal No. 2 runs behind the barn on the west approximately 200 feet. The barn is wired for electricity and has several single porcelain light sockets.

- b. Potato shed: The rectangular, one-bay, one-story structure sits approximately 30 feet west of the barn. The thick adobe walls on a concrete foundation support wooden pole beams, purlins, and joists that support a sod roof. There is a wooden-framed gable roof covered with corrugated sheet metal that is built up over the sod roof, leaving the gable ends open. A large wooden vent extends through the roof ridge on the south end. It has a gabled rain hood over it covered with metal. The shed has one pair of large wooden batten doors in the center of the north facade with inner doors on the other side of the thick jamb. The inner doors are horizontal wooden boards. The shed, which has an earthen floor, is divided into stalls along each side with a wide aisle down the center. There is a row of columns on each side of the center aisle supporting the roof. The bins are divided by horizontal wooden boards spaced apart for air circulation. On the sides of each post at the front edge of the bins there are angled brackets in which to insert divider boards. The inside walls of the adobe have been white-washed. The large vent from the roof extends to the floor at the south end of the building. Simple porcelain electrical light sockets provide lighting.
- c. Implement shed: This rectangular building is approximately 18 feet by 85 feet and sits approximately 50 feet south of the garage facing northeast. The wooden-framed structure is covered with vertical wooden board siding painted red. The salt box roof is supported along the northeast open facade with wooden posts and is covered with corrugated sheet metal. The posts, which have knee braces on each, divide the structure into nine bays with earthen floor. There is a small room on the west end that is the blacksmith shop. The doorway on the northwest corner is a wooden batten door. There is a six-light wooden sash window on the west end and a one-over-one light, double-hung sash window on the south facade. There is a large corrugated flue extending from a metal oil drum forge through the roof.
- d. Chicken house: The chicken house which sits about 25 feet east of the garage is a rectangular building approximately 15 feet by 76 feet. The wooden frame

structure is covered with vertical wooden board siding and the salt-box roof with open eaves is covered with corrugated sheet metal. There are three sheet metal vents with rain hoods along the ridge at approximately quarter points. Wooden windows have six-over-one light, double-hung sash. Doorways have wooden batten and five-panel horizontal doors with wooden sills. The floor and foundation are concrete. The building is divided into five rooms -- each with a doorway leading from one to the other. The doors between rooms line up and the metal track, suspended from the structure, extends through the upper left-hand corner of each door. The track supports a metal manure car that can be moved through all rooms and on to the outside, east of the building, where it is supported by wooden post and beam bents. The windows are all on the south facade. In each room there is a small flap door at the floor line for chickens to pass to the exterior. There are simple porcelain electric light sockets. A large willow tree is at the southeast corner of the building.

- e. Privy: Immediately west of the chicken house and abutted to it is the wooden-framed privy. The gabled roof structure is covered with asphalt shingles, and the walls are covered with vertical wooden board siding painted red. The square structure is approximately five feet by five feet and has a four-tier wooden panel door on the south. The wooden seat has two holes, and there is a wooden floor.
- f. Bunk house: The rectangular, one-story structure is approximately 14 feet by 24 feet and sits approximately 47 feet south of the guest house. The wooden frame structure, sitting on a concrete foundation, is covered with metal siding embossed to resemble rock-face stone and has smooth metal corners. The gable roof with open eaves is covered with corrugated sheet metal. There is a metal flue with rain cap extending through the roof on the east side near the south edge. Wooden windows have six-light sash. The entrance doorway has a wooden four-panel two-tiered raised-panel door with wooden sill and threshold. There are three concrete steps leading up to the door. Two doorways on the west wall have been boarded up. The entrance doorway in the far left corner of the south facade leads into a small room across the width of the building. The room has a window on the right side of the doorway and windows on the east wall. In the center of the north wall there is a doorway into another room. The front room has plywood walls and ceiling and narrow-board wooden flooring. The back room is one step down from the front room onto a

concrete floor. There is a window on the west wall. The walls and ceiling are gypsum board, unfinished. Interior doorway has wooden four-panel, two-tier raised panel door.

- g. Garage: The rectangular double garage is approximately 20 feet by 24 feet and sits approximately 50 feet south of the main house. The wooden frame structure on concrete foundation is covered with metal siding embossed to resemble rock-face stone, with smooth-faced corner trim. The hipped roof with open eaves is covered with corrugated sheet metal. Wooden windows have six-light sash. The wooden panel garage doors have a racking impediment head and are sectioned to fold inside against the garage wall, sliding on a metal track. The right door is missing. There is an exterior passage doorway on the east wall that has five double-raised, horizontal wooden panels. The interior has exposed studs and rafter at the walls and ceilings. There are two windows on the east wall and two on the north wall.
- h. Storage house: The rectangular, one-story, two-bay structure is approximately 13 feet by 22 feet and sits facing south, approximately 45 feet south of the main house and approximately 20 feet north of the garage. The wooden structure, sitting on a concrete foundation, is covered with metal siding embossed to resemble rock-face stone and has smooth metal corner trim. The gable roof with open eaves is covered with corrugated sheet metal. Doorways have wooden batten doors, wooden surrounds, sill, and threshold. The building is divided into three rooms: a small one on the southwest corner with an exterior door on the south; the second one comprising the remainder of the south half of the building, with an exterior doorway on the south; and the third room extending across the width of the building on the north with a doorway on the east wall. The interior walls have horizontal wooden boards to the top plate line and open exposed structure above the plate. The rooms across the north and on the southwest have wooden ceilings. There is a small wooden-framed opening on the north and south gable end with a wooden batten door.
- i. Smokehouse: The rectangular, one-bay, one-story structure is approximately 14 feet by 18 feet and sits facing west approximately 15 feet south of the main house. The concrete walls, which have a stuccoed finish, support a wooden frame roof structure. The gable roof with boxed cornice is covered with wooden shingles, and there are wooden shingles on the gable ends of the walls. There is a metal flue through the ridge near the center of the building. The exterior doorway on the west facade has wooden surrounds, sill,

and threshold, and a door made of vertical wooden boards. There is an inner wooden door on the deeply recessed wooden jamb. On the east gable end is a small doorway access to the attic that has a vertical wooden plank door. The interior of one room has concrete walls with a plaster finish, concrete floor, and wooden beaded board ceiling. There is wooden shelving extending the width of the building along the east wall, and there is a wooden corner cupboard in the southwest corner.

Part II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION - GUEST HOUSE

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural merit and interest: This small house, along with the main house and outbuildings, forms a typical ranch complex in the area.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The rectangular, three-bay, one-and-one-half story structure is approximately 28 feet by 35 feet.
2. Foundation: Concrete
3. Wall construction, finish, color: Wooden framing with white, textured finish stucco. Gable ends have wooden shingles painted white.
4. Structural system, framing: Wooden frame
5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: There is a recessed porch on the northeast corner of the house that is enclosed with stucco finish half wall on two sides. Above the half wall is a three-centered arched opening on the east and north walls. The entrance to the porch is through a three-centered arched opening on the west end of the north facade. The porch has a concrete floor, two concrete steps, and beaded wooden board ceiling. At the southeast corner of the house is a screen-enclosed porch with stuccoed walls approximately four feet in height. The porch floor is concrete as well as the stoop and one step on the south facade of the porch. It has a beaded wooden board ceiling.
6. Chimneys: There is a brick chimney, with stucco finish, projecting through the south face of the gabled roof, near the east edge of the house.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance is from the northeast porch on the north facade. The doorway, which opens into the livingroom, has wooden surrounds, wooden sill, and threshold. The wooden door has a single panel in the lower section with three vertical glass panels across the top. There is a wooden-framed screen door. The doorway from the kitchen to the screen porch has wooden surrounds, wooden sill, and threshold. The wooden door has three horizontal panels in the lower section with a large, single glass panel above. A doorway leading from the screened porch into a storage room has wooden surrounds, wooden sill, and threshold. The four-panel wooden door has two tiers of raised panels.
- b. Windows and shutters: Wooden windows have three-over-one, double-hung sash, wooden surrounds, and sill. There is one six-light casement sash in the east gable of the second floor. All windows have wooden-framed window screens. Screen frames, sashes, and trim are painted dark green.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The intersecting gable roofs are covered with wooden shingles. There is a wooden ladder on the east slope of the gable near the south side of the house.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The boxed cornice is painted dark green. There is a cyma moulding at the juncture of the wall and overhanging eave soffit.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: The entrance on the north facade leads from the porch into the livingroom. The livingroom has a double window on the north wall and two windows on the east wall. Near the center of the south wall is a projecting brick chimney that extends to the floor. To the right of the chimney is a doorway leading into the kitchen. On the west wall of the livingroom, at each end, there is a doorway leading into two bedrooms along the west side of the house. There is also a recessed wooden bookcase on the west wall of the livingroom of approximately the same size as one of the doorway openings. The bedroom in the northwest corner has a window in the center of the north and west walls and there is a small closet in the southeast corner of the room. The bedroom behind has a window on the west wall and the stairway to the

second floor. The L-shaped kitchen has a double window on the east and south walls and a doorway to the exterior on the west wall. There is a doorway on the east wall opening into the bathroom, which is in the southeast corner of the house. There is a window on the south wall of the bathroom. A small screened porch on the west side of the kitchen.

- b. Second floor: The stairway leads up to a small landing on the second floor. There is a large closet on the north side of the landing and, on the south side, a doorway leads into a large room. The room, with sloping ceiling on each side, has a double window in the south gable end and a single easement window in the east gable, which forms an L to the large room.

2. Stairways:

The wooden stairway begins along the west wall of the center bedroom with four open-string steps projecting into the room. At the head of the four steps there is a landing where the stairway turns right and extends up, enclosed, to the second floor. At the foot of the open-string steps, a wooden railing extends from a square wooden newel to an engaged newel at the landing.

3. Flooring:

Narrow-board wooden flooring, covered with linoleum in the kitchen and bathroom.

4. Walls and ceiling finish:

Fiberboard panels on walls and ceilings, painted in white and pastel colors, with a fiberboard cornice trim.

5. Doorways and doors:

Wooden doors have five horizontal panels, and trim has a simple wooden plinth and two simple wooden corner blocks at the head.

6. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heating: Wood stove
- b. Lighting: Modern lighting fixtures
- c. Plumbing: Modern plumbing fixtures

D. Site:

The house faces north, approximately 50 feet west of the main house. There is a wire-fenced yard surrounding the house with a gate on the north and south sides. A concrete sidewalk extends from the concrete stoop on the south facade

to the gravel driveway south of the house. Numerous large trees and shrubs surround the house. The bunk-house sits to the south of the house approximately 50 feet.

### PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original Architectural Drawings: None

B. Early Views: None

C. Interviews:

1. Ritter, John. Interview, 18 August 1981. Transcript in Bureau of Reclamation Archeological Program file, Cortez, Colorado.
2. Ritter, John; Ritter, Maurice; and Tibbits, Irene, Mancos, Colorado. Interview by Susan Goulding, 8 September 1980. Transcript in Bureau of Reclamation Dolores Archeological Program files, Cortez, Colorado.

D. Bibliography:

Dolores Star, 9 December 1904, p. 1, c. 2.

E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: None

F. Supplemental Material: None

Prepared by: John P. White  
Project Supervisor  
HABS, National Park Service  
July 1980

### PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service's National Architectural and Engineering Record, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, in cooperation with the Salt Lake City Region Bureau of Reclamation. Under the direction of Katherine Cole, Chief, Division of Cultural Resources, this project was completed during the summer of 1981 at the Historic American Buildings Survey Field Office, Cortez, Colorado, by John P. White, Project Supervisor (Associate Professor of Architecture, Texas Tech University); Steven M. Wiesenthal, Project Foreman (University of Maryland); Project Historians, Linda Dishman (University of California, Davis), Maureen L. Gerhold (Pennsylvania State University), and Lisa B. Mausolf (Wellesley College); Architects, Debra J. Brown (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University), David J. Insinga (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University); and Student Architect, Deborah Rehn Hurst (Washington University, St. Louis).